## W. T. GRANT COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT 1943



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## W. T. GRANT COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT

1943 Fiscal Year

To be submitted to the
Meeting of Stockholders
May 16, 1944
1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## William T. Grant, Chairman

John G. Byler

Joseph W. Chinn

Howland S. Davis

Raymond H. Fogler

Clayton E. Freeman

\*Deceased, February 25, 1944

Karl D. Gardner\*

John M. Hancock

James L. O'Neill

Robert R. Updegraff

William B. Warner

## **OFFICERS**

William T. Grant, Chairman of the Board

Raymond H. Fogler, President and General Manager

Louis C. Lustenberger, Vice-President

Edward Staley, Vice-President

John B. Boyle, Vice-President

John G. Byler, Vice-President and Treasurer

George I. Mason, Secretary

Robert A. Seidel, Comptroller

M. F. Ketz, Assistant Comptroller

Executive Office 1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Transfer Agent
Guaranty Trust Company
of New York

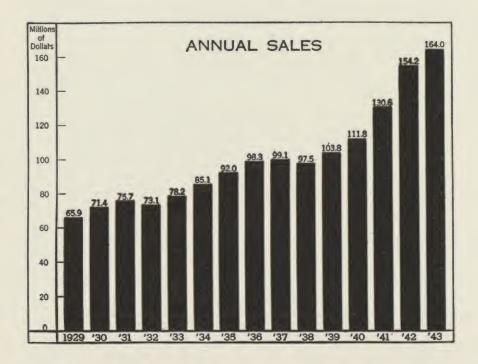
Registrar Bankers Trust Company New York, N. Y.

## To the Stockholders of the W. T. Grant Company:

This Annual Report contains the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, and Surplus Statements for the fiscal year ended on January 31, 1944.

## Results of the Year

Sales of \$163,983,317 were again the largest in the history of the company. This is an increase of \$9,778,864 or 6.3% over sales of \$154,204,453 in the previous year. The increase in sales was greatest during the first half of the year. During the final six months sales were approximately the same as in the corresponding period of 1942.



Net earnings for the year were \$3,810,345, a small increase over the \$3,762,223 earned in the previous year. After full dividends on the preferred stock earnings were equivalent to \$2.91 per share on the common stock which compares with \$2.86 in the previous year. During 1943 dividends of \$1.40 per share were paid on the common stock which is the same as was paid in the previous year.

Earnings before taxes were \$10,406,345 as compared with \$9,683,723 in the previous year. Federal Income and Excess Profits Taxes are estimated to be \$6,596,000. This does not include \$498,000 of Excess Profits Taxes which will be refunded to the company after the close of the war. In the previous year provision for taxes was \$5,921,500.

On January 31, 1944, the balance sheet showed current assets of \$36,339,590 including \$11,490,309 cash, and current liabilities of \$11,650,184. Not included in these figures were \$6,000,000 in United States Tax Notes purchased for use in payment of a portion of accrued tax liability. Working capital of \$24,689,406 increased by \$2,240,031 during the year. Surplus at the end of the year was \$23,972,232, an increase of \$1,796,419.

At the end of the year merchandise inventories including goods in transit were \$24,132,446 which compares with inventories of \$21,675,697 a year ago. The company is continuing a conservative policy on merchandise inventories and at the time of this report both inventories and commitments are below the similar date a year ago. Every effort is being made to keep inventories in proper balance with sales and to be in liquid position when merchandise of pre-war types and quality is again available.

Total wages and compensation paid employees for the year were \$24,089,309, an increase of \$2,356,486 over 1942.

At the end of the year 493 stores were in operation, the same number as were operating at the end of the previous year. Repairs and maintenance of equipment in existing stores were reasonably adequate, in view of restrictions on the use of materials.

## Organization and Personnel

Aside from merchandise shortages, the greatest wartime problem faced by the company, is in the maintenance of an adequate managerial and sales organization. Military service, shifts to defense industries, and family relocations account for the far greater than normal turnover of employees. The number of men in the armed services has increased to 1,075. Among them are 186 store managers, difficult to replace because of their years of training and experience. The short-

age in trained managerial personnel has been partially solved by promoting women to managerial positions. At present 32 stores are being managed competently by women.

With the general shortage of experienced saleswomen to wait on customers, the company has converted a number of smaller stores to a "self service" basis. Store layouts and displays have been modified to facilitate the selection of merchandise by the customer, permitting the store organization to devote the bulk of their time to merchandising and store up-keep. It is too early to predict the effect of this experiment on the post-war merchandising program of the company.

Our employees continue active in the sale of War Savings Bonds and Stamps. Sales of stamps and Series "E" Bonds exceeded \$4,000,000, a 100% increase over the previous year.

During the year, John B. Boyle, Director of Real Estate, and Edward Staley, Director of Store Operations, were elected Vice-Presidents of the company.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on February 25, 1944 of Karl Dana Gardner, a Director and former President of the company. Mr. Gardner joined the company in 1913 on graduating from college and worked his way up through every level of the organization to the presidency. He made a real contribution to the growth and success of the company.

## Government Regulation

The public press has contained numerous references to litigation between your company and the Office of Price Administration relative to the "highest price line limitation" provision of the Maximum Price Regulation 330. No question of overcharging customers for any article is involved. Your company is vigorously protesting this provision and will continue to do so because it is not price control. This provision is not used in determining the specific selling prices for which any particular item of merchandise may be sold, but is an attempt to limit the character and quality of merchandise lines which may be carried. It is a needless and harmful restriction of the activities of your company as well as of all other distributors of low-priced merchandise, and has resulted in encouraging abnormal and unwarranted increases in selling prices of women's, misses' and children's outerwear, viz: coats, suits, dresses, blouses and skirts. By a maze of technicalities, your company has been forced into the very unusual position of having to appeal to governmental agencies for the right to distribute such merchandise at prices lower than are currently being charged by competitors.

With the wide assortment of merchandise handled by the company, it is estimated that over 1,000 government wartime regulations directly affect its operations. It is recognized that emergency regulations are necessary in wartime, and every effort is being made to familiarize our employees with regulations affecting their work.

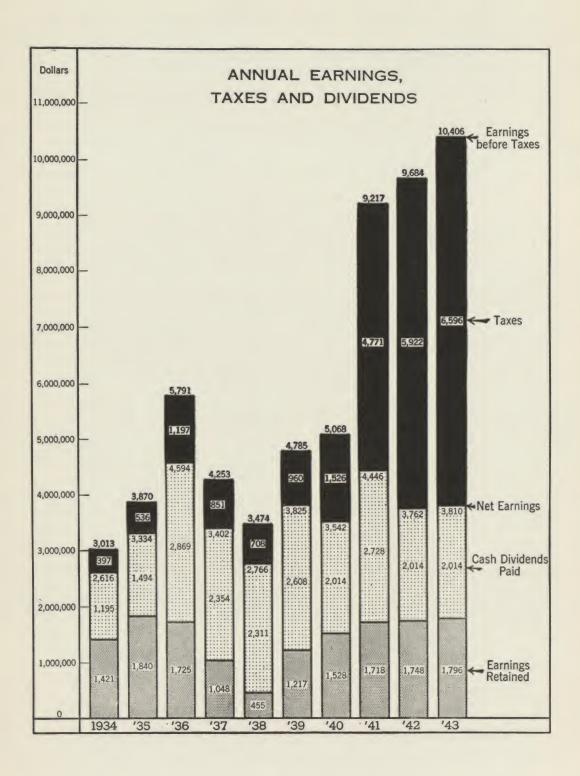
## Future Outlook

Currently sales are approximating the high levels of corresponding months of 1943. There is increasing difficulty in securing lines which normally contribute a large portion of our sales volume, particularly in lower priced textile and wearing apparel lines. Losses in sales in these lines are being overcome through aggressive merchandising of lines which are available, but sizable increases in sales cannot be anticipated until there is a more general availability of merchandise.

We look forward to the time when the war will end and the company can build for the future. The return of men now in military service will reestablish our managerial organization. The resumption of full manufacturing production of civilian goods will permit the normal merchandising of wide assortments of popular priced merchandise which make Grant stores interesting to customers. The elimination of restrictions on construction will enable the modernization of existing stores and expansion into new cities. Four locations for new stores have been acquired and in five cities where stores are now operated, new and larger locations have been purchased or are now under lease for postwar use.

Chairman of the Board of Directors

President



## W. T. GRAN

AND SUBSIDIA

## CONSOLIDATED January

## **ASSETS**

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$11,490,309	
United States War Savings Bonds, Series F-at re-		
demption value	145,698	
United States War Savings Stamps (for resale)—at		
cost	53,726	
Accounts receivable, claims, etc	517,411	
Merchandise inventories, including merchandise in		
transit—\$2,694,698 (at not in excess of the lower of cost or market).	04 100 440	¢00 000 500
	24,132,446	\$36,339,590
OTHER ASSETS		
Cash surrender value of life insurance	\$ 1,692,036	
Refundable portion (post-war) of federal excess profits		
tax—estimated	923,000	
Advances to and security deposited with landlords—	210 722	
to be repaid over a term of years	312,733	
Real estate mortgages receivable	67,000	
banks and restricted balances (less reserve of		
\$18,189)	40,188	3,034,957
STORE PROPERTIES. FIXTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS		
(At Cost)		
Land	\$ 6,095,081	
Buildings \$3,287,241	,,	
Less reserve for depreciation . 1,276,808	2,010,433	
Furniture and fixtures \$8,538,078	_,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Less reserve for depreciation 3,973,428	4,564,650	
•	4,004,000	
Alterations and improvements to leased properties (this amount is being amortized over a period not		
in excess of the term of the leases involved)	5,833,000	18,503,164
DEFERRED CHARGES		
Prepaid taxes, rents and insurance, supplies, etc.		2,089,540
riepaid taxes, tems and insurance, supplies, etc.		
		\$59,967,251

NOTE:—The subsidiary, W. T. Grant Realty Corporation, is continged by it covering three store properties subsequently sold subjections. There are no other contingent liabilities except the

## T COMPANY

RY COMPANY

## BALANCE SHEET

31, 1944

LIA	BII	IT	ES

CURRENT LIABILITIES  Accounts payable, including liability for merchandise in transit	145,289 1,329,048	\$11.650.184
DEFERRED LIABILITIES	1,020,000	ф11,000,104
Real estate mortgages and mortgage bonds payable	\$ 4,783,870 31,265	4,815,135
RESERVES For repainting stores	\$ 324,638 267,429 67,418	659,485
CAPITAL STOCK AND SURPLUS Capital stock:  5% Cumulative Preferred—par value \$20.00 per share, redeemable at \$22.00 per share:  Authorized 400,000 shares; issued — 350,138½ shares (including 1,304¾ shares in treasury) \$ 6,976,675		
Common—par value \$10.00 per share: Authorized 1,500,000 shares; issued—1,190,554 shares (including 1,200 shares in trea-	\$18,870,215	
sury)	\$10,070,213	
mation of the parent company on November 27, 1937, and \$8,676,448 was earned subsequently)	23,972,232	42,842,447 \$59,967,251

ally liable on mortgages, aggregating \$259,400 at date of sale, created ect thereto and now under lease to and occupied by W. T. Grant are incident to the normal course of the companies' business.

## W. T. GRANT COMPANY

AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

## CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 1944

SALES	\$163,983,317
EXPENSES	151,762,469
	\$ 12,220,848
OTHER DEDUCTIONS, less sundry income of \$52,586 .	22,980
	\$ 12,197,868
DEDUCT:	
Provision for depreciation and amortization of lease- hold improvements	
Interest paid, less interest earned of \$62,568 110,480	1,791,523
PROFIT BEFORE FEDERAL TAXES ON INCOME	\$ 10,406,345
Provision for federal income tax and surtax \$2,114,000	
Provision for federal excess profits tax \$4,980,000	
Less refundable portion (post-war) . 498,000 4,482,000	6,596,000
NET PROFIT FOR YEAR	\$ 3,810,345
CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 1944	
BALANCE at February 1, 1943	\$ 22,175,813
ADD:	
Net profit for year	3,810,345
DUDING	\$ 25,986,158
DEDUCT: Cash Dividends:	
On 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock — \$20.00 par value:	
Four quarterly dividends of 25c each, aggregating \$1.00 per share \$ 348,830	
On Common Stock — \$10.00 par value:	
Four quarterly dividends of 35c each, aggregating \$1.40 per share 1,665,096	
TOTAL DIVIDENDS	2,013,926
BALANCE at January 31, 1944	\$ 23,972,232

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors, W. T. Grant Company, New York, N. Y.

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of W. T. Grant Company and its subsidiary as of January 31, 1944, and the consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus of this Company and its subsidiary for the year then ended, have reviewed the system of internal control and the accounting procedures of the companies and, without making a detailed audit of the transactions, have examined or tested accounting records of the companies and other supporting evidence, by methods and to the extent we deemed appropriate. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards applicable in the circumstances and included all procedures which we considered necessary.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet and related consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus present fairly the position of W. T. Grant Company and its subsidiary at January 31, 1944, and the results of the operations of the Company and its subsidiary for the year, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

ERNST & ERNST

New York, N. Y. April 12, 1944.

# W. T. GRANT COMPANY COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED INCOME ACCOUNTS

1939	35 \$103,761,685	50 97,410,413	5 6,351,272	174,930	5 6,176,342	55,225	1,336,121	000'096 00	- 00	1	3,824,996
1940	\$111,774,965	105,198,850	6,576,115	135,600	6,440,515	37,139	1,335,165	1,407,000	119,000		\$ 3,542,211
1941	\$130,555,907	119,952,762	10,603,145	(118,9311)	10,692,456	984'69	1,405,277	2,506,000	1,400,000	865,000	\$ 4,446,393
1942	\$154,204,453	142,736,506	11,467,947	32,521	11,435,426	170,468	1,581,235	2,096,500	3,825,000	1	\$ 3,762,223
1943	\$163,983,317	151,762,469	12,220,848	22,980	12,197,868	110,480	1,681,043	2,114,000	4,482,000		\$ 3,810,345
FISCAL YEAR (Which ends January 31 of subsequent calendar year)	SALES	LESS: Cost of merchandise sold and operating expenses		OTHER DEDUCTIONS (net)	DEDUCT:	Interest paid less interest earned.	Allowance for depreciation and amortization .	Provision for federal income tax	Provision for federal excess profits tax	Provision for taxes or other contingencies	NET INCOME

# COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS ACCOUNTS

\$15,929,588		3,824,996	1	19,754,584		348,683	2,259,773	\$17,146,128
\$17,146,128		3,542,211	34,247	20,722,586		348,830	1,665,095	\$18,708,661
\$18,708,661		4,446,393	1	23,155,054		348,830	2,378,708	\$20,427,516
\$20,427,516		3,762,223	1	24,189,739		348,830	1,665,096	\$22,175,813
\$22,175,813		3,810,345	1	25,986,158		348,830	1,665,096	\$23,972,232
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PLUS_	ADD:	et incor	I pesnu		DEDUCT:	eferred	nommo	SURPLUS—END OF YEAR
	\$22,175,813 \$20,427,516 \$18,708,661 \$17,146,128	\$22,175,813 \$20,427,516 \$18,708,661 \$17,146,128				. \$22,175,813       \$20,427,516       \$18,708,661       \$17,146,128       \$1         . 3,810,345       3,762,223       4,446,393       3,542,211         3,86,158       24,189,739       23,155,054       20,722,586       1		inization expenses

## COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

1942 1941 1940 1939	5 511,154,181 \$ 8,873,834 \$ 8,716,863 \$ 9,039,744 24 159,213 49,950 235,146 256,315 11 305,138 308,677 235,146 256,315 16 21,675,697 25,482,342 17,732,398 13,287,606	33,294,229 1,595,834 1,494,281 1,390,770 1,425,000	33 365,090 428,543 464,869 546,756 38 247,882 711,341 479,356 510,505 14 7,878,586 7,950,669 7,136,998 7,451,241 50 4,776,590 3,860,823 3,406,298 3,129,346 10 6,396,372 6,336,767 6,134,145 5,586,361 10 2,002,331 1,823,480 1,356,980 1,164,136	\$56,981,914 \$57,320,707 \$47,103,823 \$4	\$ 7,763,007 \$ 7,	348,515 138,167 171,900 127,300 18,167 1,137,802 913,881 958,373 957,822	00 1,595,530 2,946,416 1,517,063 965,891	34         10,844,854         11,937,478         6,863,686         3,807,784           70         4,530,184         4,889,898         2,367,275         2,201,075           55         26,715         22,140         16,840         3,540           38         300,767         265,630         252,196         224,464           29         183,471         865,000         24,750         6,750           18         49,885         42,750         24,750         6,750	75         6,976,685         6,976,755         6,976,875         6,976,875         6,976,875         6,977,015           10         11,893,540         11,893,540         11,893,540         11,893,540           32         22,175,813         20,427,516         18,708,661         17,146,128           51         \$56,981,914         \$57,320,707         \$47,103,823         \$42,260,296
1943	\$11,490,309 199,424 517,411 24,132,446	36,339,590 1,692,036 923,000	312,733 107,188 8,105,514 4,564,650 5,833,000 2,089,540	\$59,967,251	\$ 8,655,847	145,289	1,520,000	11,650,184 4,783,870 31,265 324,638 267,429 67,418	6,976,675 11,893,540 23,972,232 \$59,967,251
AT END OF FISCAL YEAR (January 31 of subsequent calendar year)	ASSETS:  Cash United States War Savings Bonds and Stamps Accounts receivable Merchandise inventories	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS  Cash surrender value of life insurance  Refundable portion (post-war) of excess profits tax—estimated	Advances and security with landlords  Miscellaneous investments, employees accounts receivable, etc. (net)  Land and buildings, depreciated  Furniture and fixtures, depreciated  Alterations and improvements (net)  Deferred charges.	TOTAL ASSETS	LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL: Accounts payable	Dividends payable Real estate bonds and mortgages payable—current. Accrued accounts	Federal taxes on income—estimated (after deduction for 1941 and subsequent years of U. S. Tax Notes)	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES  Real estate bonds and mortgages payable—deferred Tenants deposits under leases Reserve for repainting stores Reserve for taxes or other contingencies Reserve for flood losses	Capital stock: Preferred—5% cumulative \$20 par value Common—\$10 par value Surplus TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL



## 493 GRANT STORES

## ALABAMA (6)

Anniston Birmingham Decatur Gadsden Huntsville Mobile

## ARKANSAS (1)

Pine Bluff

## CALIFORNIA (10)

Berkeley Fresno Huntington Park Los Angeles (2) Oakland Sacramento San Jose Santa Barbara Santa Monica

## COLORADO (1)

Denver

## CONNECTICUT (26) Bridgeport (2)

Danbury Danielson Derby Greenwich Hartford Monchester Meriden Middletown Milford New Britain New Haven New London New Milford Putnam Rockville Southington Stamford Thomaston Thompsonville Torrington Wallingford Waterbury Willimantic Winsted

## DELAWARE (3)

Dover Milford Wilmington

## FLORIDA (6)

Jacksonville Lakeland Miami Orlando Tampa (2)

## GEORGIA (7)

Albany Atlanta Augusta Brunswick Macon Savannah Valdosta

## ILLINOIS (16) Alton Aurora

Belleville Chicago (3) Decatur East St. Louis Elgin Galesburg Jacksonville Joliet Peoria Quincy Rockford

## INDIANA (9)

Springfield

Evansville Fort Wayne Gary Hammond Indianapolis Michigan City New Albany Newcastle South Bend

## IOWA (4)

Clinton Davenport Ottumwa Waterloo

## KANSAS (4)

Hutchinson Pittsburg Topeka Wichita

## KENTUCKY (2)

Louisville Paducah

## LOUISIANA (5)

Alexandria Baton Rouge Monroe New Orleans Shreveport

## MAINE (12)

Bangor Bath Brunswick Calais Fort Kent Gardiner Lewiston Old Town Portland Sanford Skowhegan Van Buren

## MARYLAND (4)

Baltimore Cambridge Crisfield Hagerstown

Adams

Athol

Beverly

Arlington

## MASSACHUSETTS (72)

Boston (12) Brockton Cambridge Chelsea Chicopee Clinton Danvers Easthampton Everett Fall River Fitchburg Framingham Franklin Gardner Gloucester Great Barrington Haverhill Holyoke Hudson Hyannis Lawrence Leominster Lynn (2) Malden Marlboro Medford Melrose Middleboro Milford Natick

Needham

Norwood

Peabody

Pittsfield

Reading

Plymouth

Palmer

New Bedford (2)

Norfolk Downs

North Attleboro

North Adams

Rockland Salem Somerville Stoneham Tounton Walrefield Waltham Ware Watertown Webster Westfield Weymouth Woburn Worcester

## MICHIGAN (9)

Detroit (2) Grand Rapids Hamtramck Kalamazoo Lansing Muskegon Saginaw St. Joseph

## MINNESOTA (4)

Minneapolis Rochester St. Paul Winona

## MISSISSIPPI (1)

Jackson

## MISSOURI (4)

Kansas City St. Joseph St. Louis Springfield

## NEBRASKA (2)

Lincoln Omaha

## NEW HAMPSHIRE (9)

Berlin Concord Derry Dover Franklin Manchester Nashua Portsmouth Rochester

## **NEW JERSEY (27)**

Bayonne Bloomfield Bridgeton Burlington Camden Collingswood Dover Hackensack Hoboken Jersey City (3)

## IN 39 STATES



Millville Mount Holly Newark (2) New Brunswick Deserie Paterson Plainfield Rahway Riverside Somerville Trenton Union City Vineland West New York

NEW YORK (87) Albany Amsterdam Batavia Both Bay Shore, L. I. Beacon Binghamton Buffalo (8) Canandaiaua Carthage Cotskill Corning Cortland Dansville Elmira Freeport, L. I. Geneva Glen Cove, L. I. Glens Falls Gouverneur Great Neck, L. I. Hempstead, L. I. Herkimer Hudson Falls Huntington, L. I. Ilion Jamestown Iohnstown Kanmore Kingston Lackawanna Lockport Lynbrook, L. I. Mechanicville Medina Middletown New York Bronx (4) Brooklyn (2) Manhattan (5) Queens (4) New Rochelle Niggara Falls

Norwich

Olean Oneida

Oneonta

Penn Yan

Port Chester

Oyster Bay, L. I.

Patchoque, L. I.

Port Jervis Poughkeepsie Riverhead, L. I. Rochester Rockville Center, L. I. Rome Schenectady Seneca Falls Syracuse (2) Tongwanda Trov Hica Watertown Warsaw Westfield Wellsville White Plains Vonkers

## NORTH CAROLINA (10)

Charlotte Concord Elizabeth City Goldsboro Greensboro Greenville Hickory Kannapolis Kinston Raleigh

## NORTH DAKOTA (1)

Fargo OHIO (26) Akron Barberton Bellaire Bellevue Cambridge Canton Circleville Cleveland Columbus Connegut Dayton Delphos East Liverpool Elyria Kent Lima

Mansfield Marion Middletown New Philadelphia Newark Norwalk Portsmouth Steubenville

## Youngstown OKLAHOMA (2) Muskogee

Oklahoma City

## PENNSYLVANIA (64)

Altoona Bangor

Toledo

Berwick Blairsville Bloomsburg Butler Carlisle Chambersburg Columbia Conshohocken Danville Elizabethtown Ellwood City Erie Freeland Greenville Hazleton Homestead Honesdale Huntingdon Jeannette Johnstown Lancaster Lock Haven McKeesport Mahanov City Middletown Milton Mount Pleasant Mount Union New Kensington Norristown Oil City Palmerton Philadelphia (4) Philipsburg Phoenixville Pittston Pittsburgh (2) Pottstown Pottsville Reading Sayre Scranton Shamokin Shippensburg Sunbury Tarentum Titusville Towanda Uniontown Upper Darby Washington Waynesboro West Chester

Beaver Falls

## RHODE ISLAND (5)

Wilkinsburg

Williamsport

Windber

York

Newport Pawtucket Providence West Warwick Woonsocket

## SOUTH CAROLINA (3)

Charleston Columbia Greenville

## TENNESSEE (5)

Bristol Chattanooga Kingsport Memphis Nashville

## **TEXAS (13)**

Abilene Begumont Brownsville Corpus Christi Dallas El Paso Fort Worth Galveston Houston Port Arthur San Antonio Waco Wichita Falls

## UTAH(2)

Ogden Salt Lake City

## VERMONT (5) Bennington

Burlington Newport St. Johnsbury Springfield

## VIRGINIA (13)

Charlottesville Clifton Forge Danville Fredericksburg Norfolk Harrisonburg Hopewell Lynchburg Newport News Petersburg Portsmouth Richmond Roanoke

## WEST VIRGINIA (6)

Beckley Clarksburg Elkins Huntington Parkersburg Weston

## WISCONSIN (7)

Fond du Lac Green Bay Madison Milwaukee (2) Oshkosh Sheboygan





